

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed May 2, 2003 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claim 15 has been allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification. Claims 1, and 3-15 are currently pending. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

It is noted that Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement on April 9, 2003. Applicants respectfully remind the Examiner to return a copy of the initialed 1449 Form after the Examiner has had an opportunity to review the submitted reference.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-8 and 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Burroughs et al. (U.S. Patent 4,840,568). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Burroughs discloses a jack assembly including a jack mount 10 and a jack 12. The jack 12 includes a jack body 14, a jack cover 16, and a circuit board 18. Column 2, lines 58-59. The jack 12 mounts within the jack mount 10. The jack mount 10 has a generally U-shaped configuration having an open front. Column 8, lines 29-36. The jack mount 10 can be inserted into a frame 320. The jack mount 10 is wired by pulling a cable from frame interior 321 (FIG. 14) and connecting the cable to wire wrap termination pins 302 extending from a back wall 200 of the jack mount 10 (FIG. 1). Column 10, lines 34-38.

I. Claims 1 and 3-8

Claim 1 recites a system for use with jack assemblies including a chassis and a plurality of mount apparatus. The chassis includes a power bus having a plurality of power plugs and a power intake for receiving electrical power. Each of the mount apparatus includes a power receptacle for receiving power from the power plugs of the power bus.

The frame 320 of Burroughs does not disclose a power bus having a plurality of plugs and a power intake, and a mount apparatus having a power receptacle for receiving

power from one of the power plugs. Rather, the mount 10 of Burroughs is interconnected to the frame 320 by wiring a cable from within the frame 320 to wire wrap pins 302 extending from the back 200 of the mount 10. The frame 320 simply does not have a power bus with power plugs that connect to a power receptacle of the mount 10.

Claim 1 also recites a chassis defining a plurality of jack assembly receiving areas formed at the front of the chassis. Burroughs does not disclose a frame 320 with jack receiving areas. Rather, the jacks 12 of Burroughs are received within the jack mounts 10, not the frame 320.

Claim 1 further recites a chassis having a front and a rear, and a plurality of mount apparatus mounted at the rear of the chassis. Burroughs does not disclose a frame 320 with a plurality of jack mounts 10 mounted at the rear of the frame 320. Rather, the jack mounts 10 of Burroughs are inserted into and mounted at the front of the frame 320.

In addition, claim 1 recites that the mount apparatus include a circuit board assembly. Burroughs does not disclose a jack mount 10 having a circuit board assembly. Rather, the circuit board 18 of Burroughs, which defines the card edge, is part of the jack 12, not the jack mount 10.

At least because Burroughs does not meet the structural limitations as discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, and depend claims 3-8, are patentable.

II. Claims 10-14

Claim 10 recites a system for use with jack assembly. The system includes a chassis having a plurality of slots configured to receive top and bottom edges of the jack assemblies. Burroughs does not disclose a frame 320 having slots for receipt of jacks 12. Rather the jacks 12 are received within the jack mount 10. The frame 320 of Burroughs is designed to only receive the jack mounts 10, not top and bottom edges of the jacks 12.

Claim 10 also recites a mount apparatus having a front cover, a back cover, and a circuit board assembly sandwiched between the front and back covers. Burroughs simply does not disclose a jack mount 10 having a circuit board assembly between front and back covers. Rather, the circuit board 18 is a part of the jack 12, not the jack mount 10.

Claim 10 further recites a mount apparatus having a front cover with receptacles including contacts, a back cover with holes, and a circuit board with pins extending through the holes of the back cover. Burroughs simply does not disclose this limitation. Rather, the circuit board 18 is part of the jack 12 (not the jack mount 10) and does not include pins that extend through the back wall 200 of the jack mount 10. Further, the jack mount 10 of Burroughs does not include a front cover, as the front of the jack mount 10 is open for receipt of the jacks 12.

At least because Burroughs does not meet the structural limitations as discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 10, and depend claims 11-14, are patentable.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner allowed claim 15 and objected to claim 9, but indicated that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form incorporating all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification.

SUMMARY

It is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims (claims 1 and 3-15) is in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone number if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

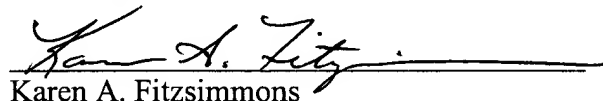
Although certain arguments regarding patentability are set forth herein, there may be other arguments and reasons why the claimed invention is patentably distinct. Applicants reserve the right to raise these arguments in the future.



Date: July 30, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300



Karen A. Fitzsimmons
Reg. No. 50,470
KAF:cjm